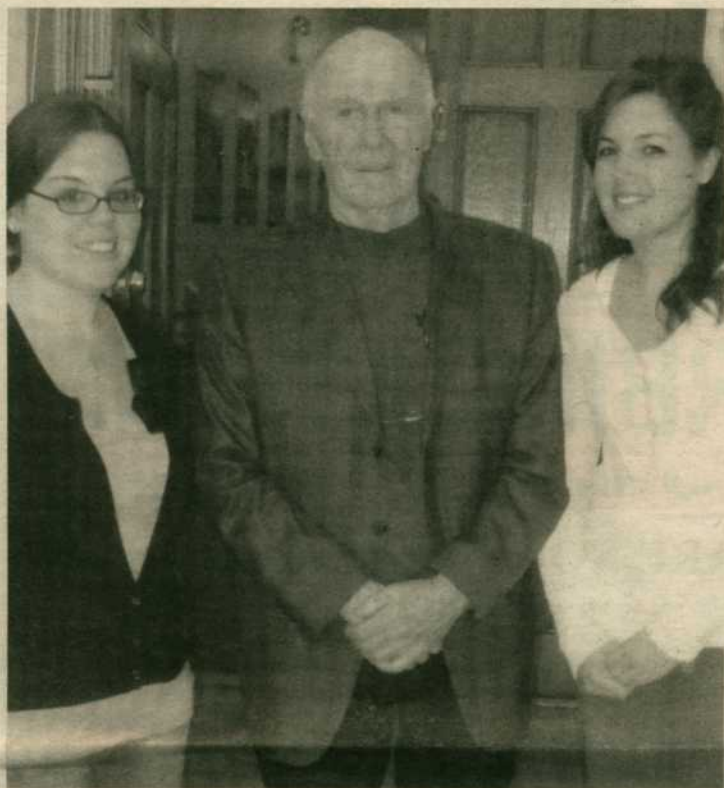


The Spirit

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Dr. Don Winklemann with editors Jacki Verbil and Nina Zito

WOODROW WILSON FELLOW DISCUSSES AGRICULTURE

Successful Farming Key to Third World Improvements

By Jaclyn Verbil

Maybe because we live in Brooklyn and get all our food needs at the local supermarket or green grocer, we do not think enough about the importance of agriculture in our world. In fact, most city folk have a healthy disdain for farmers and their rube ways.

But they might not have felt that way had they heard Dr. Don Winklemann, this year's Woodrow Wilson Fellow and guest speaker at the Brooklyn campus, who discussed the importance of agriculture on *all* aspects of the world economy.

Dr. Winklemann believes that one of the keys to world peace and stability is a successful program of agriculture, particularly in third world nations, where subsistence is the case for far too many people.

According to Dr. Winklemann, when a people can feed themselves and has a thriving agricultural industry which enables them to realize profits, the reasons for war in third world nations diminish dramatically.

By improving a nation's agriculture, the number of citizens living in poverty decreases and the quality of life improves throughout the population of that country.

Dr. Winklemann speaks from long experience in the field, as his multifaceted resume illustrates. After earning his PhD in Economics at the University of Minnesota and teaching at

Iowa State University, he went to Mexico for what was to be an 18 month stay. This turned into a sojourn of 30 years, during which time he was the only economist at the nation's school of agriculture.

During his lecture, Dr. Winklemann presented some startling and revealing facts: there are over 2.1 billion people in the world who live in abject poverty and of those, 1/3 have a daily income of less than \$2. Over 1 billion people have a daily income of less than \$1 a day.

He also pointed out that Africa has an infant mortality rate of 180 per 1000 births. Asia's rate is 160; Europe's is 8 and America's is 6.

Another telling fact is that 70% of the world's poor are engaged in farming and 80% live in rural areas.

In 1995, Dr. Winklemann became the Chairman of the technical Advisory Committee of the CGIAR—the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. The group, formed in 1971, is the largest international cooperative effort aimed at reducing poverty, promoting sustainable agriculture for food security, and encouraging sound management of natural resources throughout the developing world.

"The CGIAR was formed to do good things for people in developing nations," said Dr. Winklemann.

The CGIAR is responsible for improving plants in developing areas to make them hardier and more efficient. It also has provided funding to conduct studies in 8 countries which lead to training programs aimed at making farmers more aware of their environment. Currently, there are 10,000 people in these training programs.

Today, the CGIAR has assets of over \$500 million coming from over 60 major donors. Bill Gates is one of the major contributors to CGIAR.

Though he left the company to pursue other interests, he still has a very paternal attitude towards CGIAR. "It gives me a great feeling to know that the kind of work we did still goes on and people are being helped throughout the world by what we did," he said.

Amongst his many honors, Dr. Winklemann holds honorary doctorates from Punjab Agricultural University in India and *El Colegio de Postgraduados* in Mexico. In 1994 he received the *Condecoracion del Aguila Azteca*, Mexico's highest award to foreigners.

As a Woodrow Wilson fellow, Dr. Winklemann has had the opportunity to travel around the country spreading his own personal gospel about the importance of agriculture in a modern world.

Even students in urban areas such as Brooklyn can see the important role that successful agriculture plays in the overall success of a nation.

NEW SGA OFFICERS ELECTED

By Catherine Muldoon

The campaign has ended, the ballots have been counted, the winners announced—and the new Student Government Association officers are already busily at work planning for the 2009-2010 school year.

Stepping into the shoes of current SGA president Christian Jocelyn is Jaclyn Collins. The new vice-president is Wynnee Ganthier, the new secretary Christian Branch, the new treasurer Regina Normil, and the new parliamentarian Katie Brucas.

The new officers are "the voice of the student body," as Collins said. One of her major goals as president as she sees it is "establishing a strong connection with the entire college."

The five juniors will officially take their positions next fall during the Investiture ceremony held during the second week of September.

A major thrust of the new student administration is "to establish a greater sense of community within the school," according to Collins.

The officers realize the importance of recognition amongst their fellow students, so getting out and meeting their constituency will be an early and important group task for them.

Collins hopes to bring a new style to her administration. Possessing what she calls a "team spirit" learned through her participation in sports and activities, she will use her team of officers to accomplish many goals on campus.

"Although we are small, there are some divisions we need to work on," she said. That is why she plans on working closely with the Campus Activities Board next year.

"With this unity, our team will be able to achieve all our goals for St. Joseph's College," said Collins.

"I think this year's government did an outstanding job," said senior Lori Bastien, "and if the new government can equal their achievements, I think SJC will be in fine shape for the next year," she added.

Students were motivated to vote in the SGA elections for different reasons. "I voted because as a student of St. Joseph's, I feel as if it is my obligation to participate in choosing the person I think is fit for each position," said freshman Christina Indart.

Individual program innovations and aims will be announced by the SGA officers once they have assumed the reins of government in the fall.



New SGA officers Regina Normil, Wynnee Ganthier, Christian Branch, Jackie Collins and Katie Brucas

EDITORIAL

GOVERNMENT BROKE? JUST BILK THE RICH

This is a country that was founded upon a work ethic. Our Puritan forefathers understood the value of hard work, industry, risk-taking and daring as necessary elements to build a way of life.

But the America of today is vastly changed from the time that a Benjamin Franklin could extol the virtues of hard work in his 'Sayings of Poor Richard.'

No, today, hard work, industry, success—all are punishable offenses. And who is the chief administrator of such punishments? That's easy to answer: the federal government. Now, innovation and risk-taking are examples of capitalist excess. The new federal budget hikes the corporate income tax by a crippling 5% to 25%. Small businesses—the 'mom and pop' businesses that are the backbone of American commerce—will have new punitive taxes if they make over \$250,000, as if that represents a great deal of money. Since those business owners claim those profits as real income on their 1040 forms, they will have their taxes increased from 35% to 39.5%—all in the name of making sacrifices for the general good.

Many of those small business owners have risked everything they have to open up a shop, or establish a service or create a factory. But instead of rewarding them for taking the risk, they are penalized with oppressive tax burdens. They are members of the middle class that every politician swears they want to help. How?

Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner recently said that this is a time for Americans to "take risks by investing in our economy." Why? Why should they? Investing in the stock market is indeed a risk—and if profits are realized, they are stripped away by a new increase in the capital gains tax. So what's the point?

We've all heard the argument about the rich paying their 'fair share' in taxes—despite the fact that the top 1% of American tax payers pay 50% of the federal income tax collected. But still, the other 50% of Americans who pay no taxes receive tax credits and refund checks. Is there something wrong here? And it is those 'rich' individuals who create jobs by expanding businesses, opening new branches, creating new industries.

The founders of this nation were very big on responsibility—particularly of a personal nature. But consider this: if you purchased a Rolex watch for \$25 from a street vendor, and then found out that it was a fake that stopped working before you could even fasten the clasp, you would be reminded of the legal maxim *caveat emptor*—let the buyer beware. But if you signed for a mortgage that sounded too good to be true, or you got a mortgage so you could speculate and buy a house, only to flip it six months later, you are entitled to a bailout in many cases. You bear no personal responsibility for your naivete or your eagerness to make a quick buck.

As a result, every renter in America, and the 93% of home owners who pay their mortgages on time, are on the hook for the 7% who were irresponsible. In fact, for those responsible citizens, it is fair to say that their children and grandchildren will also be on the hook for the multi-trillion dollar debt morass that will be with us for generations.

The government's answer? Soak the rich. Make them pay more—as if we can tax our way out of a recession, something that has never worked in the past.

We are entering dangerous territory here: this is a landscape where the government can unilaterally dissolve contracts—as the Congress is doing with the legally-binding AIG bonuses. Moreover, Congress feels it has the power and right to fix the salaries of executives who work in companies that accepted a bailout. The government crossing over into the private sector like this will create a precedent almost too horrifying to contemplate—a new USSR—a United States Socialist Republic.

All those AIG workers who did their jobs well (and we make no defense for the crooks at the top of that particular food chain), they are to pay 90% tax on their bonuses. Why? What did they do that was so wrong? And how dare the government of this nation believe it has the right to levy such a crippling tax? Did we not fight a revolution over just the same type of unfair taxation?

There is no motivation to be inventive, creative, or innovative if the government has its hand in your pocket and punishes you when you become a big success. Why even accept overtime when you will lose half of it in taxes—and just wind up in a higher tax bracket?

Once upon a long time ago, it was considered patriotic to serve your country, of make some type of a contribution to it. Now, according to Vice-President Joe Biden paying more in taxes is the new 'patriotism'.

All of which leads to one conclusion: a nation wherein hard work is punished, is a nation that must take a long look at itself—and find another way.



The Spirit

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VERBILIZATIONS

By Jaclyn Verbil

THESE GIRLS ARE NO COOKIE MONSTERS!

If you really want to know just how bad the economy is, take a trip to any shopping mall on a Friday night.

Just a few months ago, the mall was the place to be on a Friday night. It was b-bopping with folks of all ages who were looking to have a good time and to buy some neat goods.

But now, in the face of our country's financial hardships, the mall is as desolate as a graveyard. When I visited the mall last Friday at what once was considered "peak time," not only were there hardly any people out, but there were hardly any stores! Many stores I passed were eerily dark and adorned with "For Rent" or "Out of Business" signs.

Let's face it: when you don't have the money, you stay away from places at which you would normally spend it.

But despite these financial woes, there is still one industry that seems to be booming and prospering. No matter how empty our wallets, we Americans are happily and voluntarily buying from people in uniform. No, not the military—and certainly not from the Boy Scouts with their Trail's End Popcorn. Why have popcorn when you can have delicious Girl Scout cookies?

All right, time for full disclosure. I'm a Girl Scout leader, so I might come off as a bit biased, but let's be honest: what beats a box of 'Samoas' or 'All Abouts' or 'Tagalongs' or 'Trefoils' or 'Do-Si-Dos' or my personal favorite—'Thin Mints'?

We're talking mucho pleasure here in every bite—and there are lots of bites per box.

Although the price of ingredients like flour, cocoa and baking oil have gone up, the price of a box of Girl Scout cookies remains steady, averaging about \$3.50 a box nationwide.

This price is the same as the last two years, so inflation has not yet impacted the sale of these delicious treats.

Again, time for full disclosure: the 'Thin Mints' are ever-so-slightly smaller than before and there are a few less 'Lemon Chalets' per box, but maybe, just maybe, the cookies themselves are the least important part of the sales campaign.

After all, what are they really selling? Cookies? Yes, but they are also selling all the good and great work that the GSA has done for American girls over nearly the last century—work that teaches leadership, responsibility and independence.

According to an article entitled "Girl Scout Cookies More than Mere Treats: Experience of Selling, Being Rejected and Budgeting Proceeds Priceless," nine out of ten people solicited will purchase Girl Scout cookies. Each box of cookies purchased contributes directly to a particular troop. A percentage of each box is refunded to the troop in a program called 'cookie rebates,' so the more cookies a girl sells, the better off her troop will be.

The girls in the troop, along with their leader, decide what to do with their rebate. Some troops decide to use the money to restock their art supply cabinets, while other troops like my own used to do, put the money towards camping trips.

Cookie revenue is further used to train volunteers and leaders and to make Girl Scouting affordable for every girl, regardless of her family's financial circumstances.

By purchasing a box of cookies, you are actually investing in a girl's future so that she may continue to learn important life skills such as managing money, working together as a team, planning and how to set real-

istic goals.

Contrary to popular belief, Brownies are not the only Girl Scouts who sell cookies. The Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassador Girl Scouts are all involved in the program. Last year the top seller nationwide was a senior girl scout who sold close to 2000 boxes. That's a lot of cookies!

On average, the Girl Scouts sell about two million boxes of cookies every year and raise close to \$700 million. One box at a time!

Scouting is a tradition that goes back generations in my family. My mother, cousin and all three of my aunts were all leaders and my sister and I will be leaders next year. When my mother was a leader, the cookies would be delivered to my house for sorting and distribution.

The cookies used to take up our entire hallway, stacked up high to the ceiling and making maneuvering around the house a challenge worthy of an amusement park maze. I always seemed to be home from school the day the UPS truck came to the house with case after case of cookies.

So, the next time a Brownie Girl Scout rings your doorbell decked out in her uniform complete with sash filled with Try-it patches and pins, remember that buying cookies is a win-win situation.

Not only are you getting delicious cookies out of the deal, but you are helping teach the young girls in your neighborhood valuable lessons. Can you think of a better, more delicious way to help out future leaders in your community?

And no, this has not been a paid advertisement from the Girl Scouts of America. I'm just sayin'.....

But excuse me for now. I have to go grab another 'Do-Se-Do.'



Kristen's Endless Playlist

By Kristen McMaster

RADIO VS. IPODS: WHO'S GOT THE MUSIC?

Ever gone through the day with one song in your head? I have—and most of the time I spent the day trying to get it out of my head, by singing another song. But then the new song gets stuck in my head!

I blame the radio programming we listen to for this particularly annoying syndrome. We have a single song in our heads because it is usually one of the 15 songs a radio station plays throughout the day that comprises their 'playlist.'

And don't you just love it when a new station is created and advertises "More music all the time" because it might expand its playlist to, oh, say 18 tunes?

I've really started to hate listening to the radio because when I turn it on and hear a song, I just know that I will hear it again a few hours later.

And as if that isn't bad enough, I will frequently change to another station, only to find that its playlist is virtually identical to the station I just switched from.

I understand the economics, and that stations must play what is popular with their listeners, but are you saying that there are fewer than 50 songs out there that could be played without repeating some of them? I find that almost impossible to believe in an age when each week, thousands of demos are sent to radio stations.

Take, for example, the new radio station NOW FM. This is the station that killed KROCK, which was a better station than what it is now. NOW FM is behaving like the new Z100. Both Z100 and NOW FM play the same music, and oddly enough, frequently at the same time.

On more than one occasion, I've caught these radio stations playing the same songs at the same time and I've thought that this is either a marvelous coincidence—or a cunning conspiracy. I haven't made up my mind which one, yet.

I have been told by those who should know, that originally, FM

was unique because it operated outside of the restrictions of Top 40 radio, which dominated the AM dial. But now? It's all Top 40 with better sound that doesn't disappear when you drive under an overpass.

NOW FM claims that they play thousands of songs with no commercial interruptions—unless you consider in-house promos or recordings of adoring fans proclaiming the virtues of the station as advertising.

I have been a loyal listener to Z100 since grammar school, and I must say that I really cannot stand the repetition of the same songs any longer. And it's not just Z100. It's every station.

It makes me consider switching to satellite radio like XM-Sirius. For now, though, I have a new respect for my iPod.

Right now, my iPod has 2400 songs on it, and I can listen to all of them and not have a repeat for weeks. The radio is driving me away as a listener—and into the arms of alternate ways of hearing music.

I dread it when a station says it will be playing 'new music,' because intuitively, I know it's just not true. It plays one of these 'new' songs, and then I realize it's been on my iPod for about a year already and is already 'old' to me.

For example, the song "Candle (Sick and Tired)" by The White Tie Affair is certainly not new to me, but stations herald it as something new and special. Lady Gaga's music has been on my iPod since last summer, and when "Just Dance" started playing on the radio, it was already played out for me.

All I'm saying (or asking) is, can't a radio station go through the day without playing the same song six times? This might make the conversion back to radio listening a lot easier for me.

Okay, I've had my say. What do you think? Contact me at *The Spirit* and let me know how you feel about this or any other musical issue.

Spring Retreat Stresses Spiritual Values

Faith, Hope and Charity Highlight Weekend Program

By Nina Zito

Think of it not as the Rite of Spring, but as a Spring Rite. An outpouring of faith was once again in evidence as the Campus Ministries of both the Brooklyn and Patchogue campuses held their Spring Retreat.

Organized by the Campus Ministry and Outreach Clubs under the direction of S. Susan Wilcox in Brooklyn and Joe Bruno in Long Island, the retreat was held at the Huntington Seminary on Long Island on March 20-22.

The overall theme for the retreat was "Live Out Loud" and each day had a sub-theme centered around the Three Key Cardinal Virtues mentioned by St. Paul (1 Corinthians 13:13): Faith, Hope and Charity.

Friday's theme was "Faith is a verb;" Saturday's was "This is my Now" (Hope) and Sunday's was "Lay it Down" (Charity).

Thirty students spent the weekend together in friendship, reflection and fun learning about themselves and their peers. In fact, the overall aim of

the retreat involved reflecting upon one's inner self-learning to live through one's actions and knowing that it is acceptable to fight for what one believes in and for what one wants out of life.

"I had an amazing time this past weekend on retreat," said Danielle Darby of the Patchogue campus. "I also learned that it is always okay to pray out loud," she added.

In the session on "Faith is a Verb," Joe Bruno of Patchogue stressed that it is a noble end to get out into the world and spread the word; expressing one's faith can be done both through action and words.

For the part of the retreat that dealt with Charity, "Lay it Down," Bridget McCormack, a senior at Patchogue, discussed why it is so important to give back to the community and your peers through charity.

"I was inspired by the presentations this weekend to pursue my career in speech pathology. I felt that I was opened to suggestions and the influ-

ence of others and am now determined to apply these lessons in my career," said Brooklyn senior Anthony Catalanotti.

Some of the activities that were held on the retreat included a Holy Hour—an inspirational hour of silence and darkness to reflect and feel the presence of the Lord.

For athletic-minded, a dodge ball tournament and a kickball game were organized.

Icebreakers, small group discussions, nature walks and trips to the beach rounded out the major events of the weekend.

The retreat began with 30 individuals, some of whom knew each other well, others by sight only. But by the end of the weekend, friendships had been formed and cemented and the group had in a figurative sense become a family.

What began as a 'mental health weekend' away from the real world, concluded as a memorable spiritual journey of enlightenment for all concerned.

Class of 2009 Ready for Big Day

By Brenda Rivera

It has taken four years, but finally the moment that every college student awaits has arrived: graduation.

The 2009 graduation exercises will be held on Friday, May 29 at 11 AM at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

The ceremony will last for approximately two hours and is a time of pageantry, recognition and celebration for students, faculty, family and friends who attend.

As was the case last year for the first time, the ceremonies for the School of Arts and Sciences has been combined with the Professional and Graduate School, so there will be diplomas awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students during the exercises.

Both schools will select valedictorians and salutatorian who will address the assembled guests delivering speeches of their own composition on topics relevant to their professions and classmates.

The guest speaker at this year's ceremony will be Dr. James Comer of the Comer School Development Program at Yale University's Child Study Center.

The graduation program is organized by Academic Dean S. Margaret Buckley and Dean Thomas Travis of the Professional and Graduate School. The deans are also responsible for certifying each candidate for graduation.

A college graduation is a very colorful event. Each candidate for graduation wears a cap and gown and is "hooded" with an academic hood representing their specific discipline. Banners hang on the stage and walls representing the college and its schools. The formal procession is lead by a marshal, bearing the staff and crest of St. Joseph's College.

There is also a procession of the faculty dressed in the formal regalia of their degrees, which adds much color to the ceremony.

Each graduate may bring up to five guests to the exercises, with tickets being distributed several days in advance. Only ticket holders, and that includes children, will be admitted to the auditorium.

At the commencement exercises, Ms. Sheila Bard, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, will confirm the

degrees for the members of the graduating class.

"Working with a committee of dedicated individuals is a great help when organizing something as big as graduation," said Sherrie VanArnam, Director of Co-Curricular Programs.

Each graduate is honored separately as they walk across the stage and are awarded their diploma.

"Every graduate has his or her moment to be acknowledged for their achievement," said Ms. VanArnam.

The Office of Student Life advises the graduates of certain procedures for the day. All candidates should arrive early to facilitate forming the line of march. Handbags and other personal items should be left with family members or friends.

Additionally, the Bursar's Office counsels all candidates for graduation that all financial obligations must be satisfied before any diploma can be awarded.

Graduation—a time of both laughter and tears as the Class of 2009 says farewell to St. Joseph's College—its home for the last four years.



The interior of BAM during SJC's Commencement

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
CLASS OF 2009!**

Alumni Spotlight: Erin Dorso

By Catherine Muldoon

For some people, like Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* and Erin Dorso (Class of 2006), there's no place like home.

That's how Erin thinks of St. Joseph's College: a place she regarded as home, and a place that she continues to work at, one that still feels like home.

She began working in the office of Financial Aid in the summer of 2007, having graduated SJC in June of 2006. Her job brought her in contact with many new SJC students and afforded her the opportunity of counseling and assisting them in a variety of ways.

She is in charge of the Work Study program at the college and she places students in on-campus jobs to help them earn money while attending classes full time. She also runs workshops for the incoming freshman class to explain how the Work Study program operates, and to try to match them up with jobs that dovetail with their personal areas of interest.

"I decided to apply for the job opening because I felt comfortable coming back to SJC. I knew the layout of the campus and I felt that I could

really help the young students, having recently been one myself," she said about her return to St. Joseph's College.

As an undergraduate from September 2002 to May 2006, Erin was a Business Administration major. She was also very active in on-campus activities such as the SJC Choral Society, the SJC Jazz Ensemble, *Footprints*, for which she was the Senior Section Editor, *The Spirit* as a columnist and the Gaelic Society.

Even at a young age, Erin knew that St. Joseph's was a perfect fit for her. Her parents were alumni and she used to come to the SJC Alumni Hoops Night, because her father had been on the basketball team.

"My parents had fond memories of their time here, and it just rubbed off on me," she said.

Like many students, transitioning from high school to college was difficult for her. "My first two weeks as a freshman were shaky and I spent many afternoons crying in Sherrie VanArnam's office," she said. "But I quickly made friends and assimilated into the flow of college," she added.

Erin credits becoming involved in clubs and activities as the catalyst for creating friendships that have endured and had lasting memories.

One thing Erin likes most about SJC is that, "Everyone really cares about you and what is going on in your life. In times of need, the community really pulls together to help out."

Outside of St. Joe's, Erin pursues many hobbies and interests. Her passion lies with music and theater. Her long term goal is to someday work in the entertainment industry.

She prides herself as the 'go-to' girl when it comes to advice about which shows are worth a visit.

Her family is also involved in the Colon Cancer Challenge, which held their 6th Annual Walk on March 22nd. Erin and her family walk in memory of her mother, Kathy Dorso.

Erin Dorso is a perfect example of someone who found something she loves and has held onto it. From the way she talks about St. Joseph's College, her pride in the school and appreciation of all it has given her is evident in every word.



Erin Dorso, Class of 2006



The Individualist

By Michael Labeit

A PROPER WAY TO REGULATE AIR COMMERCE

Want to minimize plane crashes? Let the market regulate the airline industry.

The idea that government should supervise and regulate the airline industry is taken as a given by most people. According to popular belief, without federal intervention, private airplanes would fall from the sky.

Economic theory says otherwise.

That the market as a network of voluntary exchanges to mutual benefit, can regulate itself is a truism that has been demonstrated time and time again. Insurance companies are among the best private institutions that engage in intra-market regulation.

Insurance companies (AIG notwithstanding), are businesses that provide risk-reduction services in exchange for regular cash payments called premiums. Risk is the degree of uncertainty regarding the profitability of a venture.

The airline sector naturally is exposed to a high degree of expensive risk. Airplane crashes trigger massive lawsuits and remuneration payouts, legal claims that eviscerate profits and convert them into pure losses. As a result, all airlines purchase risk-reduction services from insurance companies.

From these win-win transactions, airlines benefit from reduced financial risk and insurance companies earn premium-based profits.

In order to be eligible to pay reduced premiums, airline companies agree to allow their insurers to regulate and inspect their operations. Insurers may demand that, in exchange for cheaper premiums, their airline clients pass objective safety tests and evaluations, that their pilots be trained only by reputable flight schools, and that their passenger aircraft are purchased only from reputable manufacturers like Boeing. After all, insurers do not want to have to pay their clients.

This way, airlines companies pay less for insurance services, the safety of air travel is enhanced for the public and insurance companies reduce

their own risk by decreasing the uncertainty of airline profitability, the object that the insurance companies are insuring in the first place.

Government regulation, as extra-market regulation, operates far less effectively. The reason why government regulation is less effective than market regulation is that market regulators like insurance companies are bound by the profit/loss system. Private insurers have a stake in the solvency of those business clients that they insure.

If businesses engage in too much risky behavior and, as a result, incur too many losses, their appeal to the insurance money offered by their insurers may very well bankrupt their insurers. The solvency of private insurers in contingent upon their business performance.

Our government is bound by no such profit/loss concerns. And even though it now regulates the industry, it cannot be sued by individuals in the case of an airline tragedy.

If a plane crashes, the FAA does not go out of business. In such situations, it is usually appropriated more and more money and regulatory authority by the federal government.

As long as governments can cope with their wasteful and imprudent methods by engaging in taxation and printing money, they have no incentive to properly regulate private enterprises. Indeed, it is often the case, as in public schools, that the incentive among government institutions is to perform poorly in order to attract additional funding.

Such is the case with all government regulatory agencies that enforce preventive laws. The FDA, the EPA, the FCC and all the other myriad Soviet-style government bureaucracies charged with regulating the marketplace, are not guided by profit/loss considerations. Once we realize that effective regulation finds its source in intra-market agencies and not extra-market agencies, our economy will begin to prosper again and safety will be ensured.

Pinwheels Call Attention to Child Abuse

By Marsha Desrosiers

The blue and silver pinwheels that appeared on the lawn in front of Tuohy Hall during the end of March were not some alternative form of energy for lighting campus buildings. They were part of the "Pinwheels for Prevention" program run by Prevent Child Abuse America, an organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect in the nation's children.

The project was sponsored by the Child Study Club and Beta Upsilon Delta sorority as part of the nationwide campaign by PCAA to eradicate child abuse.

The pinwheels were sold for a dollar each and the club members created their own pinwheel garden. Although the clubs fell short of their \$400 goal (they did, however, raise \$300), they were encouraged by how receptive the SJC community was to their efforts.

"There is something very rewarding about knowing that the money you collect will be used to educate people about child abuse and it could even save the lives of some children," said Child Study Club member, sophomore Nina Zito.

During last year's national campaign, over 400,000 pinwheels were displayed across the country. The PCAA was founded in Chicago in 1972 and is currently America's leading organization working solely to prevent child abuse and neglect. There are chapters in 47 states and each year over 100,000 families are serviced by the organization.

A blue and silver pinwheel is a flimsy thing with a short life span, but

what it symbolizes, the safety and care of tens of thousands of American children, is priceless.

Grass roots campaigns such as the

one conducted by the Child Study Club and Beta Upsilon Delta help assure that education and prevention will go on for years to come.



Cory Jones and Nina Zito place pinwheels on the lawn



The Culture Vulture

By Nick Souleotis

ANNETTE FUNICELLO: AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

Annette Funicello is best known for being one of the original Mouseketeers on the Mickey Mouse Club in the 1950s and for her blockbuster Beach Party films in the 1960s starring alongside fellow teen idol Frankie Avalon.

She also had several Top Ten hits in the 1960s including the timeless "Tall Paul," written about her boyfriend Paul Anka. The image of her youthful and innocent face beneath the large black Mickey ears will forever be in the memory of those who grew up with her.

But there is a much darker side to her story. Annette went public with her story of battling the crippling disease, Multiple Sclerosis (MS), which she has been afflicted with since 1976.

The disease varies in form and symptoms, depending upon which parts of the brain or spinal cord and central nervous system are damaged. The loss of myelin and scarring cause by MS can affect any part of the central nervous system.

Over the last 30 years, Annette has largely lost the ability to talk, walk and even feed herself, but even through these hardships, her faith and her family of been the bulwarks of her support system.

Annette Joan Funicello was born on October 22, 1941 in Utica, New York, the only daughter of first generation Italian-American parents. At the age of 8, she was discovered by Walt Disney and cast as one of the original Mouseketeers.

Seeing her talent and audience appeal, Disney quickly cast her in feature films such as "Babes in Toyland," with Tommy Sands.

Though Disney warned her against dressing in bikinis for the Beach Party films, she took a chance and turned the series of some half dozen films into box office gold.

In 1965 she married her manager and retired ten months later to her Encino, California home where she raised three children.

For over twenty years, she was out of the public eye, being content to raise her children and be a housewife.

But one evening in 1976, she was

washing her face as the kitchen sink when everything went black and she could not keep her balance. She fell, crashing into a sink, necessitating surgery and 125 stitches. After cosmetic surgery to repair the damage, her vision began to deteriorate at a very rapid pace, finally developing a blind spot in her left eye.

An MRI disclosed the brain damage caused by MS and as is typical in these cases, she went through several psychological stages concerning her disease: denial, self-pity and finally, acceptance.

With the help of her mother and a therapist, she attempted to overcome her fear of being in public. In time, she disclosed the nature of her ailment to her best friend-Frankie Avalon, who had asked her to join him on tour in 1984.

The 1984-85 tour was very taxing. She had a hard time keeping her balance and frequently, Avalon would keep a tight grip on her throughout the performance.

By 1989, the tabloids had caught on that something was very wrong with Annette, and they began calling asking why she was using a cane. Finally, in 1990, she went public on Vicki Lawrence's talk show in early 1990 and disclosed her disease to America.

At the same time, she began work on her autobiography, *A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes*. The book became a national bestseller in 1996 and fan mail poured in from all over the country.

In 1994, she lost the ability to walk and has been in a wheelchair since. In 1995, she received her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. With the help of her physical therapist, she was able to stand for 2 minutes to receive her award.

Now confined to her bed, Annette, with the help of her mother and daughter Gina still reads her many fan letters each week, though she has lost the ability to sign autographs.

A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes is at once inspiring and heartbreaking. It is the true portrait of a television pioneer who Walt Disney once described as "a true angel."



S. Elizabeth Hill with scholarship winner Roseangela Fracchiolla

Newspaper Seeks New Columnists

By Kristen McMaster

Some journalists like the street—the hard-nosed business of reporting the news. Others favor the editorial desk, where they shape the stories that are filed. Still others aspire to have their opinions appear on a regular basis by becoming columnists.

Over the last five years, *The Spirit* has been fortunate to have a highly-motivated and committed string of columnists in a wide variety of subjects. But as seniors graduate, new voices are necessary to pick up the slack and carry on.

As the spring 2009 term ends, *The Spirit* finds itself in need of columnists to replace the graduates. In particular Sports, Technology and Fashion are currently pressing needs for the fall semester.

"Being a columnist means that five times a year (the number of issues), you have to have something significant to say," said Dr. Howard Weiner, Director of Student Publications. "You can develop your own style, be as entertaining or serious as you like, and really have a voice out there in cam-

pus events," he added.

It is not necessary to start as a reporter in order to be a columnist, though columnists sometimes have to do double duty when an edition is particularly heavy in hard news.

It all starts with an interest and a passion for a subject. Then it takes shape in the form of an opinion piece for the paper.

Writing for the school newspaper allows a student to get the inside scoop about everything happening on campus; interviewing and meeting students from different years and getting to know the faculty are other perks that come with the job.

Also important is that being a reporter, columnist or editor really enhances a resume and makes a student stand out from the crowd because of participation in an activity as sophisticated as journalism.

"We have really gone out of our way to make the Publications Office (St. Angela Hall Room 607) a place with all the amenities a student can want," said Nina Zito, editor-in-chief

of *The Spirit*. Dr. Weiner has provided us with a microwave oven, a refrigerator for our lunches and every supply that a journalist could possibly use," she added.

And as editor-in-chief Jacki Verbil notes, "He also brings in an endless stream of candies and other snacks to keep us happy!"

Dr. Weiner stresses that no journalistic experience of any kind is necessary to join the staff of *The Spirit*. "We train you from the bottom up and help you with your writing every step of the way," said Dr. Weiner.

"I have always wanted to see a contemporary religion column in the paper," said Dr. Weiner. "I think it would be great to see what a young person has to say about religion in the modern world," he added.

To become a columnist requires the first step: crossing Waverly Avenue and coming to St. Angela Hall to speak to Dr. Weiner or one of the editors.

Next thing you know, it could be your picture, column head and byline in *The Spirit* for 2009.



Editors Kristen McMaster and Catherine Muldoon pasting up *The Spirit* in Publications Office

New Scholarship Winners Welcomed

By Catherine Muldoon

The new crop of academic stars were shining on April 19 at the annual Scholarship Brunch, held at the Water's Edge Restaurant in Long Island City, Queens.

The Brunch was organized by the Admissions Office under the direction of Theresa LaRocca-Meyer, Vice President for Enrollment Management. Assisting throughout the afternoon's activities were members of the Student Ambassadors Club under the mentorship of Michael Learmond.

The 53 scholarship recipients and their families were present to learn about academic honors programs at St. Joseph's College and to learn more about what they will face when they begin school in September.

The Presidential Scholarship winners have received full scholarships to the college; Dean's Scholarships and Scholastic Achievement Awards, based in part upon SAT scores also involve substantial sums of money.

After a sumptuous brunch of eggs, breakfast meats, fruit, salads and breads, accompanied by music pro-

vided by Lynn Porteus Director of the SJC Choral Society, the new scholarship winners were ready to find out some crucial information.

Serving as emcee, Ms. LaRocca-Meyer introduced Karen Russo, who has been working at the college since 2006.

"At the Department of Education, I was just a number, but as St. Joseph's you are a real person," said Ms. Russo. She then told a story of how she was crossing the street and S. Elizabeth said hello to her—and told her to button her coat because it was chilly. "Then, I felt like I was a person again," she added.

The small size of the student body makes it very conducive to close and personal interaction with faculty and staff members. As opposed to colleges with many thousands of students on campus, making friends at SJC is relatively easy.

Then Ms. LaRocca-Meyer introduced Gia Vecchio, a current student, who said, "Choosing a college is like choosing a dream home. I found mine

at St. Joseph's."

At each table was an alumnus of the school, a Student Ambassador and a representative of the Admissions Office.

"I was glad to see that the incoming students had so many questions to ask," said freshman Kristen McMaster. "That kind of inquisitiveness is very healthy and it shows how much they really wanted to find out," she added.

Questions included everything from pre-registration procedures to the Honors Program to the food in the cafeteria.

Every scholarship winner received a program that had their biography printed in it. All the winners were introduced individually and they were presented with certificates and pins.

With tuition costs skyrocketing across the country, numerous area students are selecting St. Joseph's College because of its reasonable cost and its impeccable reputation. The current crop of scholarship winners insures that the best and the brightest will be with the college for the next four years.



Convent of the Sisters of Mercy in Brooklyn

Beloved Brooklyn Convent Shuts Its Doors Forever Sisters of Mercy End 150 Year Mission

By Nina Zito

After more than 150 years of service to the community, the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Brooklyn closed its doors for the last time in mid-February, 2009.

The order originated in 1827 in Dublin, Ireland when a wealthy woman named Catherine McCauley built a 'House of Mercy' for struggling women and children.

In 1855, five Irish-born sisters boarded a ferry from Manhattan bound for Brooklyn and oversaw the building of a convent on Willoughby Ave.

Designed by Patrick C. Keeley, at the time the leading 19th century church architect in America, the chapel in the convent is surrounded by German-made stained glass windows, one of them a gift from former orphans.

During its lengthy history, the Sisters of Mercy Convent has sheltered, educated and nurtured people in need from Irish orphans to mentally disabled adults to poor Hispanic children.

According to the mission statement of the sisters, their aim was "to help people overcome obstacles that

keep them from living full and dignified lives." Each year of the convent's existence, they fulfilled that goal.

Having taken a vow of poverty, the Sisters of Mercy received a minute allowance and gave what they earned to the order.

The facility itself provided programs for after school care of children and for parents who learned computer literacy, English and job skills so they could improve themselves with more and better job opportunities.

For their maintenance, the Sisters of Mercy relied upon their salaries, private donations and government grants to operate their schools and foster homes.

But several months ago, the convent's elderly residents faced the devastating news that they would be forced to leave the convent because of a lack of money.

Engineers reported that it would cost more than \$20 million dollars to repair structural and safety problems that had arisen through the years, and that type of massive funding was sim-

ply not available.

The 29 nuns still residing at the convent have all moved to Catholic-run homes in the New York area.

The Sisters of Mercy will be able to use the money from the sale of the property to support the mission of the order's 8000 nuns, a decrease from 10,000 only a decade ago.

"The charitable mission of the order will continue, even if there are not a lot of sisters. We pass onto others what we believe in," said Sister Kathleen Quinn, to the Associated Press.

Neighborhood and religious leaders regretted the closing of the convent, but celebrated the many good works that the sisters performed during its tenure.

"This was a place of constancy. People knew that good things happened here," said S. Camile D'Arienzo.

The closing of the Sisters of Mercy Convent leaves a void in the community for the services they performed. It can only be hoped that somehow the City will come up with alternative methods to perform the same services.

Gaelic Society Walks for MS

By Lori Bastien

For this bunch, it's more than just appearing at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Gaelic Society at St. Joseph's College is also involved in community service, as demonstrated by their participation in the annual MS Walk.

Thirteen members of the Gaelic Society under the banner of Team SJC raised over \$800 for research and treatment of MS in a walk held at the South Street Seaport.

Sponsored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the walk involved 6000 people across the country and was expected to raise in excess of \$2.7 million.

Every hour, someone in the United States is diagnosed with MS. Currently, over 2.5 million people

suffer with MS nationwide. The disease is degenerative and debilitating. It involves the interruption of the flow of information between the brain and the body and it ultimately stops people from moving.

The symptoms of the disease vary, but all can be devastating. They include tingling in the extremities, numbness, blindness and eventually, paralysis.

Most sufferers of the disease are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50 and there are more than twice as many women diagnosed as men.

Unfortunately, at this time there is no cure for MS and money raised from activities such as the National MS Walk is poured into researching the mysterious causes.

Globespotters Hold Economic Forum

By Alam Khosnoor

The subject of the current world economy occupies a great deal of space in print and broadcast media as well as in college classrooms across America. Add to that number now St. Joseph's College's Globespotters Club, which held a forum called "Our Collapsing Economy" on March 30th in Tuohy Hall.

Guest speaker at the forum was Ms. Marjorie Wilner M.A. Ms. Wilner is an economist who has worked as a banker, a communications consultant and a corporate marketing executive. She also spent ten years as a financial specialist at two major banks.

Part of the presentation was to explain the operation of the banking system in America: individual depositors place their money in banks, which in turn loan out that money for home mortgages, car loans, personal loans and business loans, amongst other financial products that they market.

One of the major problems or kinks in the system arose because of the very competitive nature of banking: so many banks competing for business amongst a limited pool of people and families who want to borrow money.

For this reason, the banks tended to get lazy in checking the financial stability of prospective clients. In some

cases, they did not even bother to verify employment history or current salaries.

For people borrowing money for ARM (Adjustable Rate Mortgages), in many cases it was never explained to them that the rate could adjust as much as two points per year, so a comfortable mortgage payment of \$700 per month, could be as much as \$1100 in less than two year's time.

When homeowners defaulted on their mortgage payments, the banks lost that income. Often, banks borrow money from other banks to make loans. Now, they could not pay their obligations.

Quicker than anyone expected, a domino-effect began to occur with homeowners and banks alike going bankrupt, thereby precipitating the global banking crisis. Even banking giants like Citibank and Washington Mutual found themselves on the brink of insolvency because they made so many of these unwise mortgage loans.

The members of the Globespotters then asked pertinent questions of Ms. Wilner and asked for further clarification about how insurance companies like AIG could suddenly face insolvency, as well as the effects upon the American economy of companies such as General Motors declaring bankruptcy.

"Our Collapsing Economy" was an attempt to put into simple terms, an issue of almost boundless complexity that even professional economists have trouble fully understanding.

The forum also represented the kinds of activities that the Globespotters Club sponsors and participates in each year.

Under the mentorship of Dr. Sydelle Brooks and Mick Larson, the club has in the past year held trips to Ellis Island and the Immigration Museum, an Italian Carnival in Jackson Heights, Queens, Apple Picking in Connecticut and the United Nations.

The club also visited a Climate Change exhibition that was related to another crucial world problem: Global Warming.

The co-presidents of Globespotters are Saima Jalil and Evelyn Ho. The vice-president is Shaharier Islam; the secretary is Jousheen Mahmood; the treasurer is Ekaterina Lyubchenko and the Web Master is Mahmud Rahman. The senate representative is Kushbu Khadka.

The club embraces all ethnicities on the SJC campus and welcomes new members at any time. Any student interested in being a part of Globespotters should see Mick Larson in the ACES Office in St. Angela Hall.

Def Poet Pays Annual Visit to SJC

By Marsha Desrosiers

A visit from a Def Poet has become an annual tradition at the Brooklyn Campus of SJC, and this year's edition of the event included some surprises.

Hosted by Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai, in the Tuohy Lounge, Tsai recited a sample of contemporary poetry—poetry that touched upon mores and values of today's young people—and engaged the audience with poetry that embraced a wide variety of subjects.

But as opposed to other years, after Tsai's presentation, an open mic segment was conducted followed by a poetry slam.

Six performers each presented an original poem. There were two rounds and three judges rated the performances on a scale from 0 to 10.

After two rounds, the top three performers were selected: Stacy Adams, Anthony Catalanotti and Shaniqua Smith.

Stacy Adams was awarded 1st place, having received perfect scores through both rounds. Anthony Catalanotti and Shaniqua Smith came in second and third place respectively.

Each winner received a prize of \$25 for their poetic efforts. Who says poetry doesn't pay in today's society?



Def Poet Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai at Work

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!
COME BACK AND WRITE FOR
"THE SPIRIT"
IN THE FALL!**

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

Now that you are graduating, what are your plans for the immediate future?



I will be entering graduate school in the fall and working as a teacher.
—Grace Ferrara



I plan on going to graduate school in the fall to become a psychologist.
—Mike Swidurski



I will be retaking my MCAT and applying for medical school as well as working in a medical environment.
—Leandra Derico



I am starting my Master's degree in Public Health while working full time as an EMT.
—Christian Jocelyn



I am going to work part time while attending graduate school.
—Tamara Bulatovic



I plan to work full time and start my graduate studies in the fall.
—Brian Lewicki



I will be teaching and I plan on starting graduate school in the spring of 2010.
—Danielle Kramer



I will be starting the NYPD Police Academy in June.
—Greg Creamer



I will be teaching Special Education and starting Hunter College for graduate school in the fall.
—Danielle Rapino



I will be working full time until graduate school starts in the fall.
—Alejandro Osborne



I plan to continue working in the hotel and hospitality field.
—Chrissy Contessa



I will be going to grad school in the fall while teaching full time.
—Theresa Mendez

Bill T. Jones: A Passion for the Dance

By Cory Jones

The importance of dance to the Brooklyn campus of St. Joseph's College was highlighted on Monday, March 16th when choreographer Bill T. Jones addressed the college community in Tuohy Hall.

Jones, a Florida native and son born to migrant farm workers, worked himself up from poverty to a position as one of the most respected choreographers in the world of modern dance.

For the past three decades, he has been an influential artist and choreographer in some of the most famous dance companies in America. In 1982, he and his former partner, Arnie Zane, formed the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Academy.

During the 1990s, Jones choreo-

graphed many numbers for the world famous Alvin Ailey Dance Academy.

Perhaps the pinnacle of his career was achieved in 2007 when he accepted the Tony Award for best choreography of a musical for his work in *Spring Awakening*.

The large turnout of students who came to hear Jones represented various segments of the school population. Students from the SJC Leadership Experience were in attendance as well as students from Professor Vargas' "Evolution of American Music" class and members of the community who were invited to attend the event.

Clearly a man of great passions, Jones shared some of his colorful life experiences with the crowd and told

of the challenges of being a professional dancer and choreographer.

One of the most exciting portions of the evening occurred when Jones opened the podium and microphone to the audience, many of whom eagerly stepped forward to ask him questions.

Questions ranged from the type formal training he had to the number of hours a day of practice it takes to be a professional dancer. Audience members were also keen on hearing about working with the young company of *Spring Awakening*, which in 2007 received the Tony Award as Best Musical.

One of Jones' messages to the Dance Club members who attended was that any art form takes total commitment if one is to excel in it. Opportunities for professional dancers are few, and only the best make it—even in the dancing ensembles of big Broadway shows.

Dancers can go on endless 'cattle calls' before they even get a call back, and that in itself is no guarantee that they will be selected for the chorus.

The lives of such 'gypsy' dancers, movingly depicted in the Broadway show *A Chorus Line*, are not easy. Many wait tables, sell shoes, or do whatever is necessary to earn a living in between auditions.

But for those who have the talent, the possibilities are enormous for artistic satisfaction and gainful employment too.

Jones showed a clip from his upcoming musical entitled *Fela*, which is a sad and emotional story of a Nigerian political maverick.

He encouraged the audience to see the musical during its Off-Broadway run, not only for the dancing, but for the enlightenment that can be acquired in learning about foreign cultures.

POET'S CORNER

Like French cooking? Well, here are some recipes for you—but we don't recommend that you try to prepare them in your kitchen! The two poems presented here grew out of a project in Professor Sharon Hart Snow's French class. Hope you like them!

"Recette pour un match de football"

By Alhaji Bah
Class of 2011

Les ingrédients:

1 terrain de jeu
2 équipes A et B
2 rectangles verticaux blanc avec 1 filet au fond de chacun
2 entraîneurs
1 arbitre
22 joueurs compétants
des chaussures et des chaussettes de football
des protège-tibias
des shorts
des maillots
des supporteurs4s fanatiques
1 ballon de foot

La préparation:

Faire s'habiller les joueurs: mettre les shorts et les maillots, les chaussures et les chaussettes de football, les protège-tibias.
Faire s'habiller l'arbitre chemise rayée noir et blanc.
Faire venir et s'asseoir les spectateurs
Faire entrer les joueurs dans le terrain et se positionner.

La Cuisson:

Déployer le pan d'attaque des deux équipes à l'aide de leurs entraîneurs.
Poser un ballon par terre et shooter dedans..
Courir dans le terrain pour gagne le ballon.
Ensuite, mélanger les joueurs des équipes opposées.
Quand le ballon arrivera devant un rectangle vertical,
Tirer en visant bien l'intérieur.
Voir le but et faire donner un coup de sifflet par l'arbitre.
Enfin, faire éclater de joie les supporteurs et déguster le bonheur de vaincre.

"Recette pour une bell journée d'été (saveur de New York)"

By Thiessen Charles
Class of 2011

Les ingrédients:

Des ouvriers et des ouvrières actifs des surfeurs, des piétons et des touristes.
Un saupoudrage d'enfants riant
Une brise d'été
Des bicyclettes, des frisbees
Des ballons de basket, de foot de football américain
Des balles de tennis et de baseball
Des vendeurs de glaces et leurs camions multicolores
Des étoiles

La préparation:

Avant la cuisine, nettoyer tous les travaux scolaires pour enlever leur goût amer
Coupez en morceaux les examens et les mettre de coté
Préchauffer la ville à environs 80 degrés
Faire fondre la glace dans les mains
Des enfants
Faire dorer les peaux des touristes, des surfeurs et des piétons
Mélanger les tranches de frisbees et Parsemer tout de moustiques et de mouches
Ajouter des poignées de balles et de ballons variés et tourner
Faire venir la brise du soir sur les visages des joggeurs et des cyclistes
Laisser refroidir à l'air de la nuit et aux lumières lumineuses de la ville
Finalement, garnir d'amoureux et d'amis les centres commerciaux et les restaurants
Laisser reposer un bon moment
Apprécier la soirée:
Bon Appétit!



Choreographer, dancer, playwright and producer Bill T. Jones transmits his passion or dance to the Tuohy Hall crowd.

ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS

SPORTS SHORTS



The SJC Dance Team performs at half time during the East vs. West basketball game against Patchogue



Justin Gist goes up and hits a three-pointer from the corner over the hands of a Patchogue defender.



Darci Crimi is all concentration as she makes a strong forehand return in her singles match.



Emily Palmieri makes a smooth swing and strong contact as she launches a line drive base hit to right field.

Bears Baseball Team Makes Great Strides

By Catherine Muldoon

It was the stated aim of the SJC Bears Baseball Team to improve upon its inaugural 5 win season in the 2009 campaign. They more than succeeded in achieving that goal by better than doubling their victory total, finishing with a 12-21 record.

For Head Coach John Torres, now in his second season with the team, there were many positive facets to this year's team.

First of all, the Bears presented a heavy hitting lineup to their opponents. Nine of the team's players had .300+ batting averages with Anthony Langone batting a remarkable .392 followed closely by A.J. Passione's .388.

In fact, the team's cumulative batting average was a truly astounding .321 vs. a .294 mark set by SJC's opposing teams.

Junior Chris Coffey, a transfer student from Kingsborough Community College, led all pitchers with 4 vic-

tories and a solid 2.31

Earned Run Average over a club leading 42 innings of work.

Chris Davidson, a transfer student from Canada College was second on the Bears with 3 wins and a .432 ERA over 35.2 innings of pitching.

Another top player for the Bears was freshman John Mendez who led the team in 5 offensive categories including doubles (11), total bases (55), hits (38—tied with two other players), RBIs (39) and sacrifice flies (6). All of this with a batting average of .345.

Areas that will need attention for the next season include improvement in fielding. Three Bears starters were in double digits in errors. The team made a total of 95 errors for the season, so the defense needs tightening.

Holding base runners in place is another game facet that will need practice. The pitching staff allowed 67 runners to advance on steals and move

into scoring position.

Catching, one of the most demanding and difficult positions on the field, also needs honing. The catching platoon gave up 15 passed balls on the season.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the second season of Bears Baseball is that of the 20 players on the squad, there are no seniors and there are 12 freshmen. With only 4 sophomores and 4 juniors, the youthful team has gained invaluable competitive experience in 2009 and it should return intact for the 2010 conference race.

Active recruiting will be taking place throughout the summer and walk-ons will also have a chance to make the team in the fall.

Information about the Bears Baseball Team and any other varsity team can be obtained in the Athletic Department in the basement of Tuohy Hall.

Softballers Log Super Season

By Cory Jones

No one could have predicted that after starting out with a 1-5 record including being shut out three times, that the SJC Lady Bears would wind up as a powerhouse in the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference—but that's exactly what happened.

By the end of the first third of the season, the team had found its rhythm and snapped off win streaks of 3, 4 and an astonishing 10 games in a row, to finish the year at 22-8 and 3-0 within the conference. Those numbers were good enough to propel the team to the national United States Collegiate Athletic Association tournament in Decatur, Illinois.

Pitching stars for the team were Alyson Chiarmonte and Lisa Scheer, who each won 11 games against 4

losses and logged ERAs of 1.91 and 2.67 respectively.

The pair also shared batting average titles, each hitting .354 during the season. Emily Palmieri was also way up in the stats with a nifty .324 batting average.

The speedy Scheer also led the team in extra base hits with 11, including 4 triples.

"Softball gives me the opportunity to meet a group of girls that become a second family to me. It also allows me to be a part of a team that is hardworking and dedicated," said Scheer. "It also allows me to work on my leadership skills. If I wasn't part of softball, my life wouldn't be complete," she added.

That passion for the game is shared

by her teammates who play not only to win, but to be part of a team effort and to make lifelong friends.

Senior Theresa Mendez went 11 for 11 in steals to lead the Lady Bears in that category.

Defensively, the team was also very strong. Emily Palmieri registered 157 put outs at first base, followed by Caitlyn Kakavas who had 136. Kakavas also led the team in fielding percentage with an outstanding .977 with the glove.

With 5 of 15 players seniors, Head Coach Frank Carbone will have to do some recruiting to replace players he has had for four years.

But with a strong incoming class, the Lady Bears will be vying for conference titles for years to come.

Athletics Department Launches SAAC

By Brenda Rivera

In accordance with National Collegiate Athletic Association policy, the Athletic Department at St. Joseph's College has established a Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

"Something like this has been a long time in coming," said senior Ervin Maddox. "Sometimes people think athletes only care about sports, but we also want a say in all aspects of college life, and that's what SAAC can give us," he added.

The purpose of the committee is to give athletes a voice in campus programs that the would not ordinarily have. It also encourages the involvement of all athletes in other activities and teaches the virtue of good sportsmanship in all sporting events.

The SACC will also organize charitable events both on and off-campus so that athletes from the various teams can give back something to their community in the form of humanitarian service.

Each college has its own constitution for SAAC, laying out requirements and athletic policies for academic performance along with a code of behavior that is strictly enforced.

The constitution will be written by the members of the SAAC Executive Board: President, Edward Han, Vice-President, Kristin Binckes, Secretary, Tara Gleason, Treasurer, Kristen McMaster, Public Relations, Joanna Marciniec and Parliamentarian, Caitlyn Kakavas.